

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A flat panel obtained by the Hatschek process from a sheet material obtained by filtration of an aqueous suspension comprising:

a cement in an amount of from ~~20~~ 18 to 50% by weight of dry matter,

calcium carbonate in an amount of from ~~35 to 65%~~ 40 to 70% by weight of dry matter,

at least one pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction,
and

from 2 to 10% by weight of fibers, at least some of which are synthetic fibres,
said flat panel being obtained without autoclaving.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim ~~[[10]]~~ 9,
wherein said pozzolan or material is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminosilicates, calcium aluminosilicates and amorphous silica.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension further includes plant fibres.

Claims 13-15 (Canceled.)

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim [[10]] 9, wherein said suspension comprises 40% of calcium carbonate and 15% of fly ashes as said pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension comprises about 60% of calcium carbonate.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled).

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the content of synthetic fibres is at least 1% by weight relative to the total weight of dry matter or at least 25% by weight relative to the total weight of fibres.

Claims 22-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise at least one of polyvinyl alcohol fibres, polypropylene fibres and polyethylene fibres.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): ~~Flat~~ The flat panel according to Claim 9, in the form of a siding, a cladding element, or a partition element.

Claims 27-28 (Canceled).

Claim 29 (New): A flat panel obtained by the Hatschek process from a sheet material obtained by filtration of an aqueous suspension comprising:

a cement in an amount of from 18 to 50% by weight of dry matter,
calcium carbonate in an amount of from 60 to 70% by weight of dry matter, and
from 2 to 10% by weight of fibers, at least some of which are synthetic fibres,
said flat panel being obtained without autoclaving.

Claim 30 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 29, wherein said suspension further includes plant fibres.

Claim 31 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 29, wherein the content of synthetic fibres is at least 1% by weight relative to the total weight of dry matter or at least 25% by weight relative to the total weight of fibres.

Claim 32 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 29, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise at least one of polyvinyl alcohol fibres, polypropylene fibres and polyethylene fibres.

Claim 33 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 29, in the form of a siding, a cladding element, or a partition element.

Claim 34 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the cement is Portland cement.

Claim 35 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 29, wherein the cement is Portland cement.

Claim 36 (New): The flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the at least one pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction comprises fly ashes obtained from thermal power stations, or fly ashes selected from the group consisting of rice husk ashes and blast furnace slag.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 9 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of Claim 10 therein; by incorporating the fiber and fiber amount limitation of original Claim 4; by changing the minimum amount of cement to --18--%, as supported by the specification at page 7, line 3; and by changing the amount range of calcium carbonate to --40% to 70%-- by weight, the lower amount being supported by, for example, Example 2; and the upper amount being supported by the specification at page 7, line 6. Claims 10, 13-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 11 and 16 have been amended to depend on Claim 9. Claim 16 has been additionally amended to recite that the fly ashes, in effect, are a species of pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction, as supported in the specification at page 6, lines 5-10. Non-elected Claims 27 and 28 has been canceled. Finally, the term --The-- has been inserted before "flat panel" for all dependent claims drawn to such a panel.

New Claims 29-36 have been added. Claim 29 is analogous to above-amended Claim 9, but does not recite pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction, and the amount range of calcium carbonate is --60% to 70%-- by weight, the lower amount being supported by, for example, Example 1; and the upper amount being supported by the specification at page 7, line 6. Claims 34 and 35 limit the cement to --Portland-- cement, as supported throughout the specification. Claim 36 supported by the specification at page 6, lines 5-17.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 9, 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 24, 26 and 29-36 are now pending in the application.